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COVID-19 and the impact on international student mobility in Germany

Results of a DAAD survey conducted among international offices of German universities

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1. Introduction

The COVID 19 pandemic is expected to have a serious impact on the international higher education sector. International student mobility is also severely affected by these effects, particularly due to the closure of many university campuses and international travel restrictions. To this end, the Institute of International Education (IIE) very quickly conducted a survey of US universities on the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on international student mobility in the USA and made the questionnaire available to other international exchange organizations. On this basis, the DAAD also conducted a survey among the international offices of German universities between the end of April and mid-May 2020, the results of which are presented in this report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most German universities did not begin teaching in the 2020 summer semester until the end of April. The survey thus captures the impressions and experiences of the surveyed university staff shortly after the postponed start of the summer semester.

The present working paper deals on the one hand with the general effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the teaching activities of German universities in the 2020 summer semester and the presumed effects on the coming winter semester 2020/21, as well as with the associated challenges for university staff. However, the analysis focuses on the effects on international student mobility in Germany, i.e. on the consequences for international students who were not able to begin or continue their studies in Germany, who have to cope with changed teaching and living conditions, or who may currently not be able to return to their home country. In addition, the international marketing of German universities and the situation of local students in Germany are also taken into consideration. These students are also currently facing hitherto unknown challenges in implementing their study-related stays abroad or in planning these stays. The penultimate chapter is then devoted to possible solutions and support offers for the universities and their evaluation by the surveyed university staff. In order to better classify the results, the report closes with a chapter that compares the findings of the present study with those of the IIE survey in the USA.

When interpreting the findings, it should be noted that they relate to the specific period of the survey and that the assessments of the universities may have changed again since then with regard to certain questions. For example, it can be assumed that the curriculum for the winter semester is now more advanced at some universities. The forecasts regarding student mobility in the winter semester are also likely to be different from those at the time of the survey due to the partially changed information situation. The DAAD therefore plans to repeat the survey at the beginning of the winter semester.

2. Summary

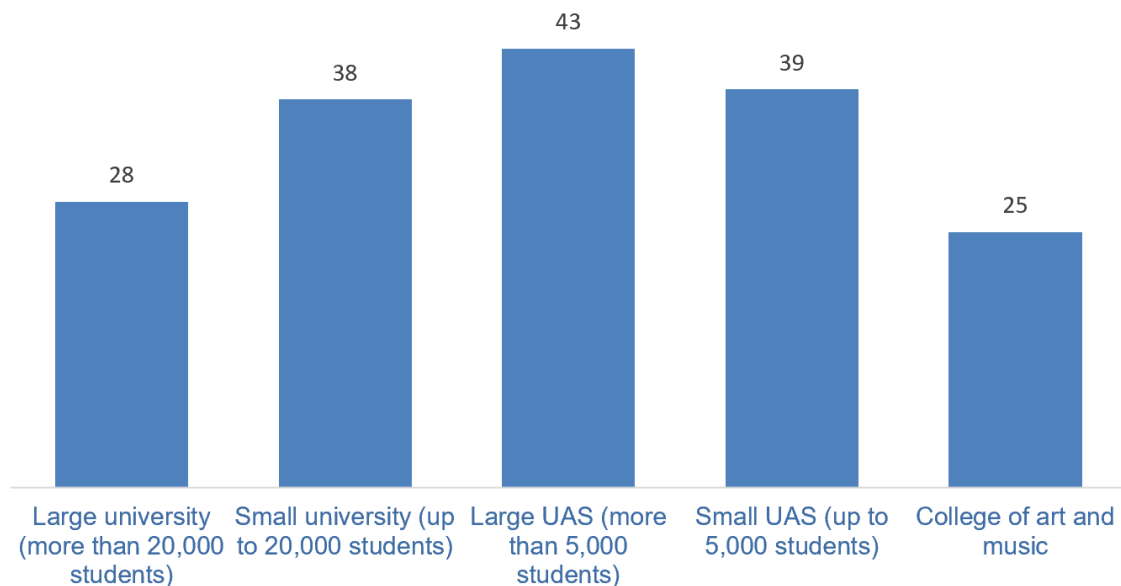
1. Almost half of the German universities switched exclusively to virtual teaching in the 2020 summer semester (47%), and almost as many to a mixed model of presence and virtual teaching (45%).
2. At three-quarters of the universities, international students were unable to begin or continue their studies in Germany as planned in the 2020 summer semester due to travel restrictions. 27% of the universities state that this problem affected more than half of the international students, while 35% assume that half or less was affected.
3. About 40% of the universities stated that international students left Germany after measures or other travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic came into effect at their university. Extrapolated for all HRK member institutions in Germany, this results in a figure of around 80,000 students who left Germany as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. 80% of the universities cancelled welcome events for international students, two-thirds of the universities cancelled international business trips for marketing purposes and half of the universities cancelled university branding events. Many responded with virtual welcome events (69%) and increased online marketing (47%).
5. Nearly a third (30%) of the universities discontinued certain exchange programmes in the 2020 summer semester, and about a fifth (22%) discontinued all programmes. However, a similarly high proportion of universities (45%) did not discontinue any programmes at all.
6. A total of nearly two thirds (65%) of the universities report that students cancelled their planned stays abroad during the 2020 summer semester. More than a third (36%) assume that the cancellation rate among these students is 50% or lower, while less than a third of the universities (29%) report a cancellation rate of more than 50%. A similar number of universities report no or hardly any cancellations of stays abroad.
7. 92% of higher education institutions have assisted their own students to return abroad, mainly from Erasmus countries and the USA. Extrapolated to all HRK member universities, it can be assumed that approximately 8,500 such return trips were supported.
8. More than half of the universities (57%) anticipate a decline in interest among international students in the 2020/21 winter semester. However, most (36%) expect a rather moderate decline, while only 21% expect a very strong decline. More than a fifth (22%) expect little or no change.
9. Nearly half of the universities (49%) expect a decrease in the international mobility of their own students in the winter semester 2020/21. However, most of them (31%) expect a rather moderate decrease, while only 18% expect a very strong decrease. More than a third of the universities (36%) expect little or no change.
10. There is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding planning for the winter semester 2020/21. For example, at the time of the survey more than 80% of the universities had not yet made a decision on the mode of teaching in the winter semester.

3. Methodology

The survey was addressed to the heads of the international offices of the 268 German Rectors' Conference (HRK) member universities and was conducted by the DAAD from 27 April to 18 May 2020. A total of 195 universities took part in the survey, and 173 completed the questionnaire in full (net return rate: 65%). The universities were divided into five so-called clusters for the survey, to secure a balanced distribution and meaningful results:

- Large universities (more than 20,000 students);
- Small universities (up to 20,000 students);
- Large universities of applied sciences (more than 5,000 students);
- Small universities of applied sciences (up to 5,000 students);
- Universities of art and music.

Distribution of participants by university cluster



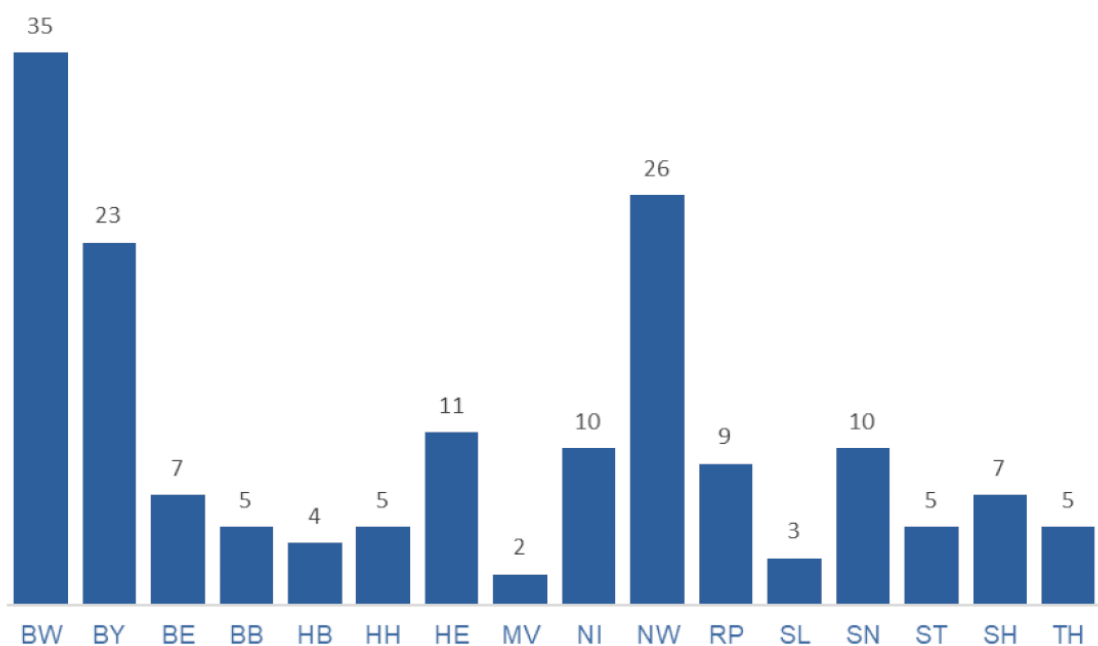
The average number of international students in the various university clusters varies greatly (Federal Statistical Office, Student Statistics for the winter semester 2018/19):

- Large universities: Ø 3,943, range: 1,159 to 10,843
- Small universities: Ø 911, range: 11 to 2,715
- Large universities of applied sciences: Ø 909, range: 126 to 3,058
- Small universities of applied sciences: Ø 237, range: 10 to 930
- Colleges of art and music: Ø 223, range: 2 to 1,155

The totals for all universities presented in the main part of the report were calculated using the weighted cluster values. The basis for the weights was the cluster distribution in the population of all 268 HRK member universities. However, since the cluster distribution in the sample of 173

participating universities was very similar to that in the population of all universities, only small weightings were necessary in the calculation of the totals. With regard to the federal states, too, the participating institutions were very evenly distributed.¹ The data basis can thus be regarded as very meaningful with regard to the HRK member institutions as a whole.

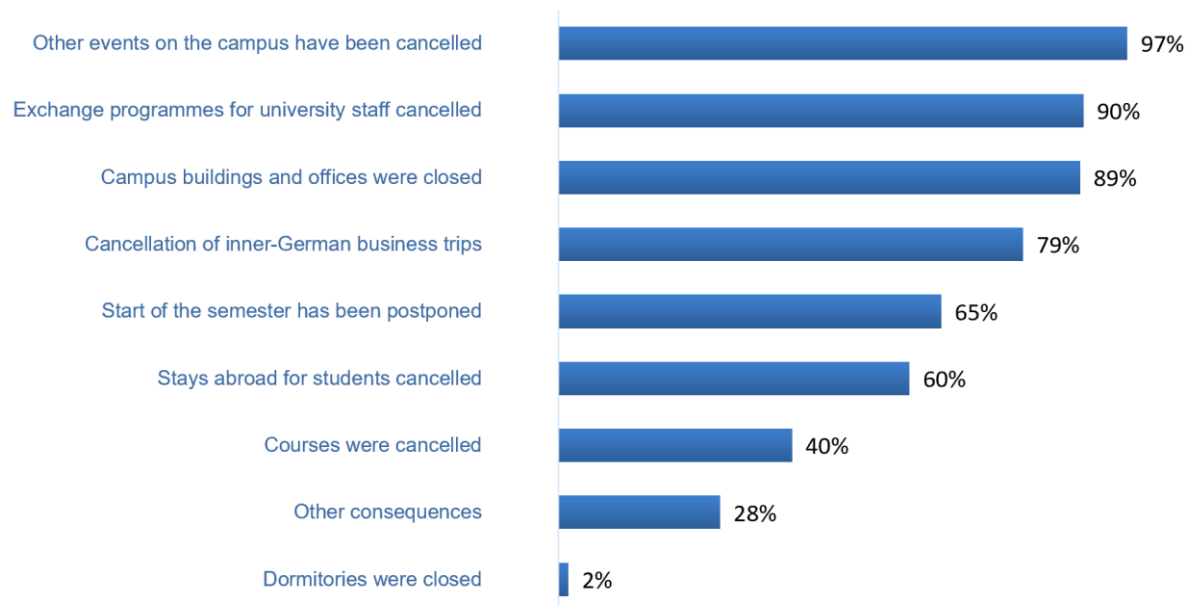
Distribution of the participants by federal state (n = 167)



¹ In the case of the federal states, only 167 of the 173 higher education institutions that replied to the questionnaire in full can be assigned.

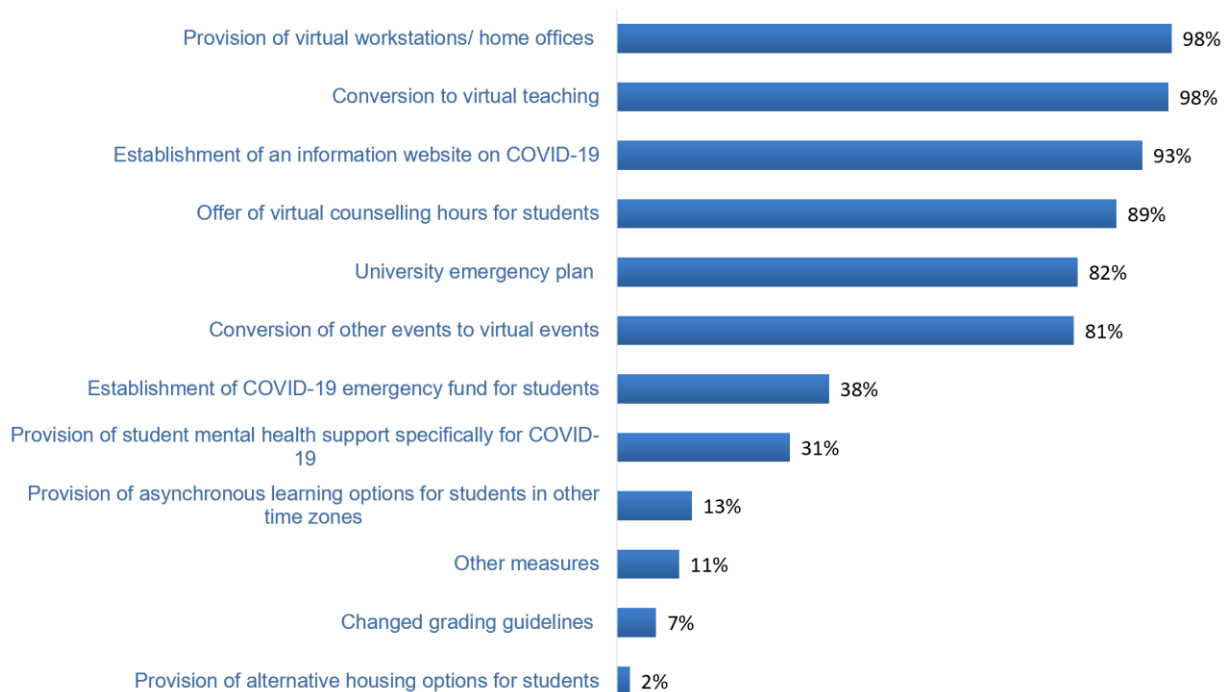
4. The COVID-19 pandemic at German universities: General impact and response

How has your institution been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?



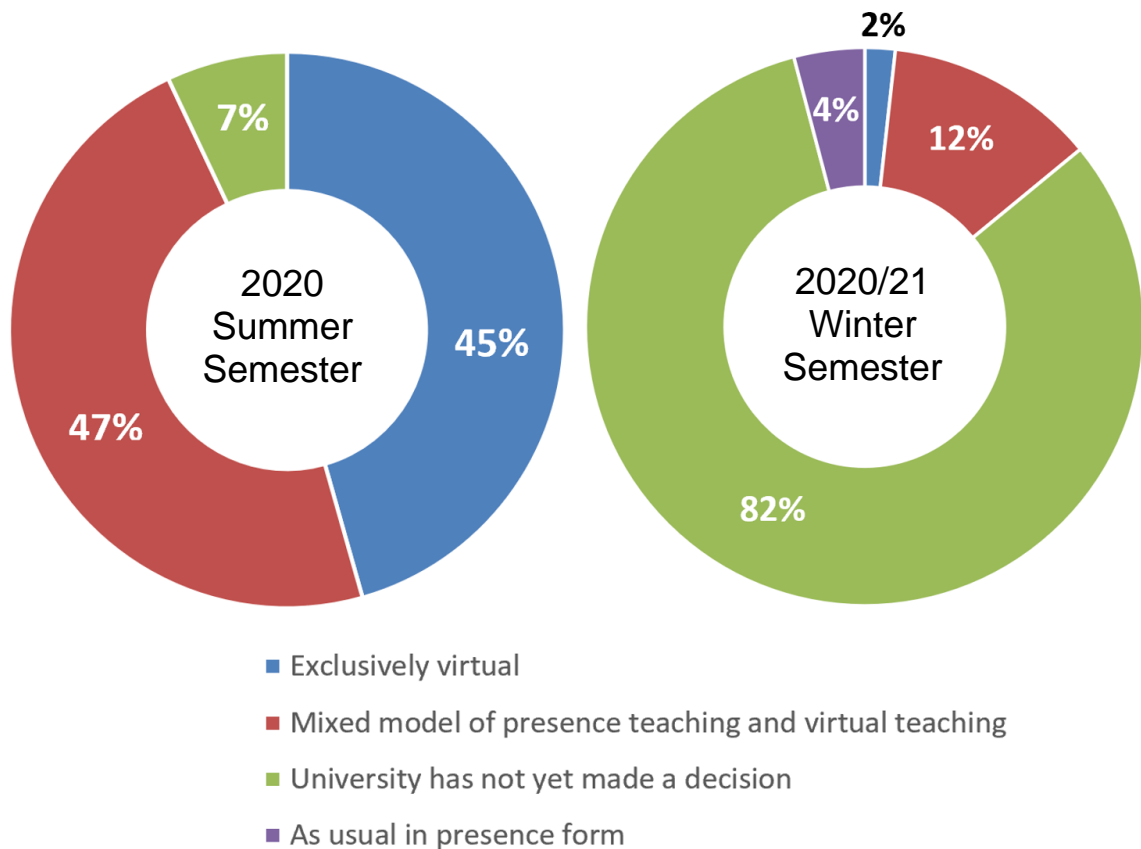
The COVID 19 pandemic had a serious impact on the services of German universities. Campus buildings and offices were closed at around 90% of the universities surveyed, and events outside of teaching were cancelled at almost all universities (97%). Exchange programmes for university staff were also cancelled at 90% of the universities. Business trips have apparently been reduced to a minimum, with around 80% reporting cancellations, although this is often due to cancellations by the respective local organisers. About two thirds of the universities have postponed the start of the 2020 summer semester (65%). This served mainly to implement hygiene rules or virtual courses as well as a more precise assessment of the epidemiological development. On average, six out of ten universities cancelled exchange visits by their own students; in the case of large universities, this was reported by as many as eight out of ten universities. In contrast, courses were cancelled much less frequently (40%), and there are also clear differences between the various university clusters. For example, more than two thirds of the art and music universities (68%) report cancellations, whereas this applies to only 27% of small universities of applied sciences. The closure of halls of residence was reported by hardly any university (2%).

What measures has your institution taken to accommodate its students, faculty and staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic?



Almost all of the universities surveyed offered their employees virtual workplaces and converted their teaching to online events. Nine out of ten universities have set up a website with information on COVID-19 and offer virtual consultations for students. About 80% of the universities have drawn up an emergency plan. A psychological counselling service has been set up at about every second large university, but overall this only applies to 31% of the universities surveyed. An emergency fund for students was set up at nearly 40% of the universities, but particularly frequently at art and music colleges (80%). The extent to which these funds were used by students was not surveyed. Time-shifted courses for students in other time zones were only implemented by about one in ten universities. Even less frequently, the universities report changes in grading guidelines and the offer of alternative housing. However, as only 2% of the universities closed dorms (s. previous page), alternative housing opportunities were probably not necessary in the vast majority of cases.

Has your institution already made a decision on the mode of teaching for the 2020 summer semester and the 2020/21 winter semester?

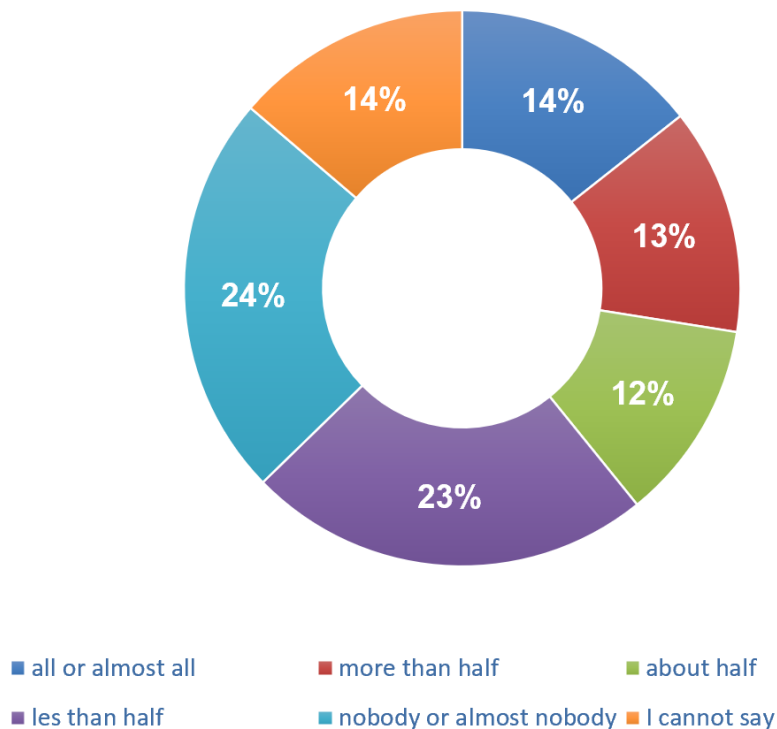


At about half of the universities, teaching in the 2020 summer semester is carried out in purely virtual form (45%). Almost as many universities have opted for a mixed model of virtual and face-to-face teaching (47%). A mixed model is implemented particularly frequently at art and music universities (77%). This applies in particular to orchestral and studio work. At the time of the survey (end of April to mid-May), only 7% of the universities had not yet made a final decision in favour of a model.

With regard to the coming winter semester, the large majority of the universities (82%) had not yet decided in which form the courses would be offered at the time of the survey. In most cases, the further development of the pandemic as well as experiences with the respective teaching model in the summer semester will probably play an important role in this decision. However, as many as 12% of the universities have already opted for a mixed model of classroom and virtual teaching.

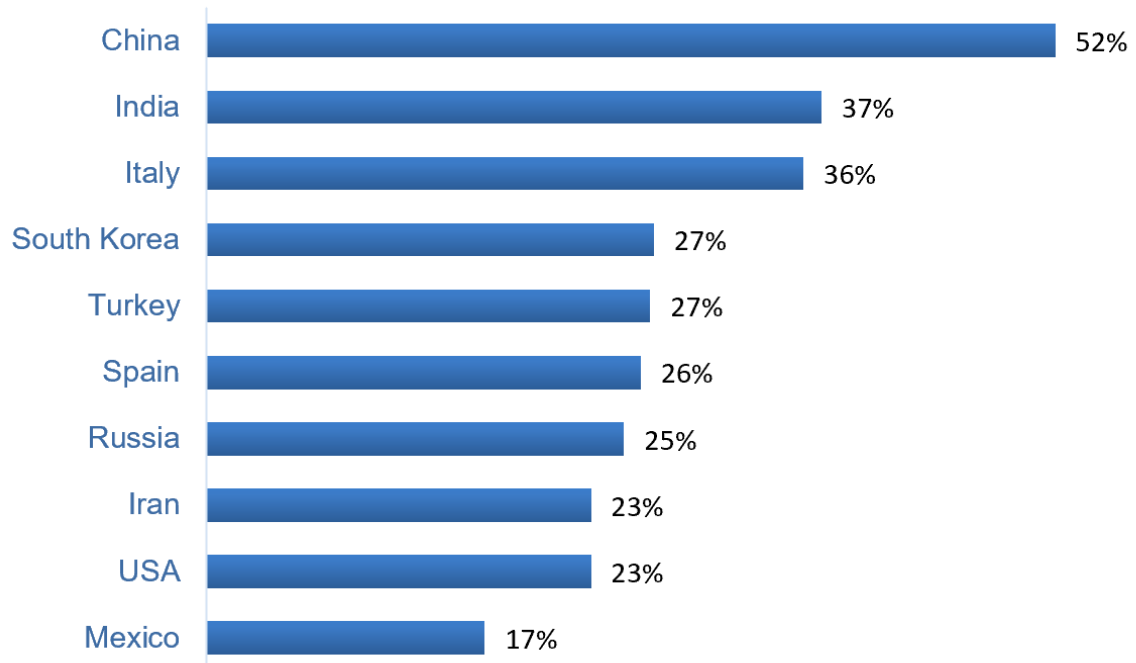
5. Impact and response regarding international students in Germany

What do you estimate: How many international students from your institution were unable to enter Germany due to travel restrictions and thus were unable to begin or continue their studies as planned?



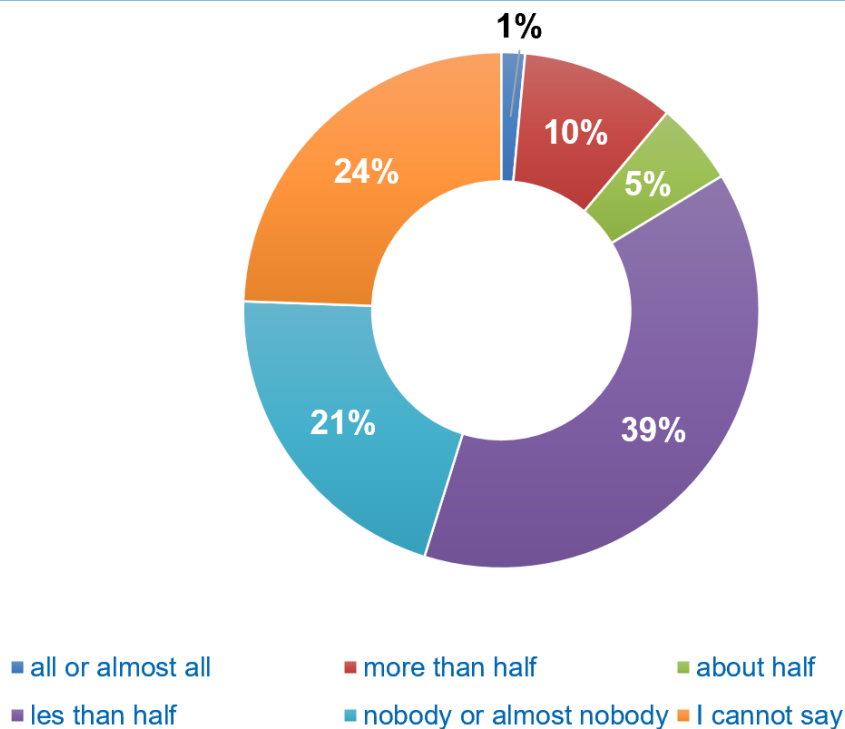
The universities were also asked if some of their international students were unable to enter Germany due to travel restrictions and were therefore unable to begin or continue their studies as planned. This problem affected about nearly two thirds of the universities. About a quarter of the universities (23%) reported that less than half of the international students at these institutions were affected. At another 12% of the universities, approximately half of the international students were unable to enter Germany. At 13% of the universities, more than half of the international students were affected and at 14%, all or nearly all of them. Small universities and colleges of art and music reported particularly high proportions of affected students. In contrast, smaller proportions of affected students were found at large universities.

What were the places of origin of these students?



Chinese students were most frequently affected by entry problems. More than half of the universities surveyed stated that they were among the groups of origin most affected. Indian and Italian students were also strongly affected at over two thirds of the universities that reported entry problems of their international students. The fact that Chinese and Indian students are among the most affected student groups can probably be explained by the fact that these are the two most important countries of origin for international students in Germany. In addition, travel restrictions may have created additional obstacles to mobility, especially for Chinese students. In contrast, the frequent mention of affected students from South Korea, Spain, the USA and Mexico is surprising, since these countries are not among the top ten countries of origin of international students in Germany.

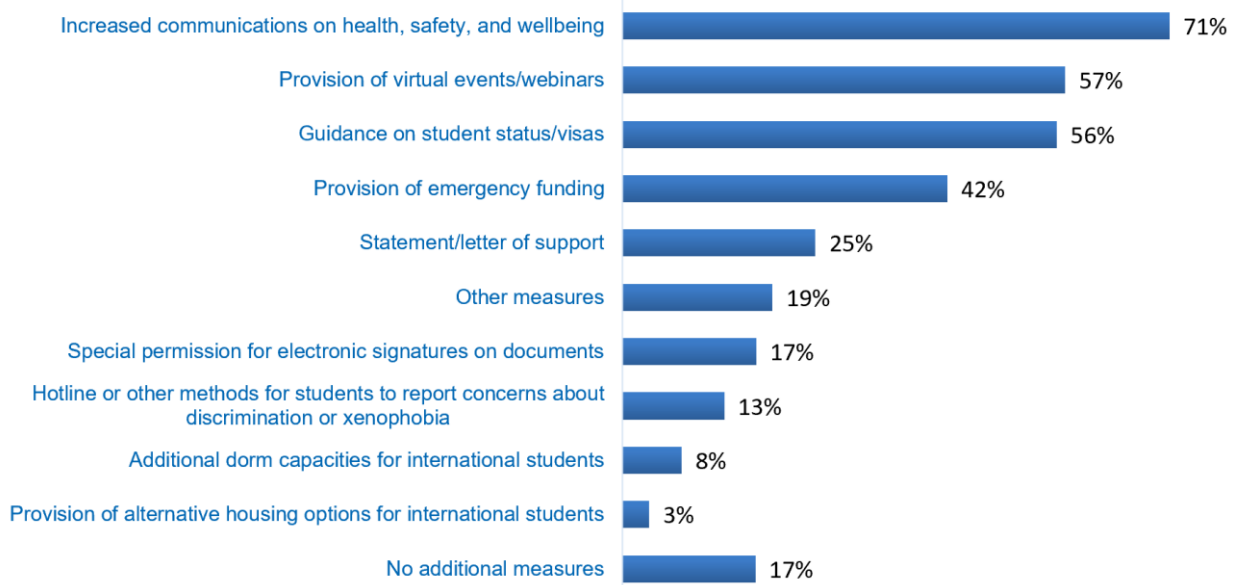
What do you estimate: How many international students of your institution have left Germany after measures or other travel restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic came into effect at your university?



Over 40% of the universities stated that international students left Germany after measures or other travel restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic came into force at their university. 12% of these universities assume that this affects half or more of their international students. Significantly more universities (30%) estimate, however, that less than half of their international students left again. It is also noticeable that approximately 19% of the universities were not (yet) able to give an assessment on this question at the time of the survey.

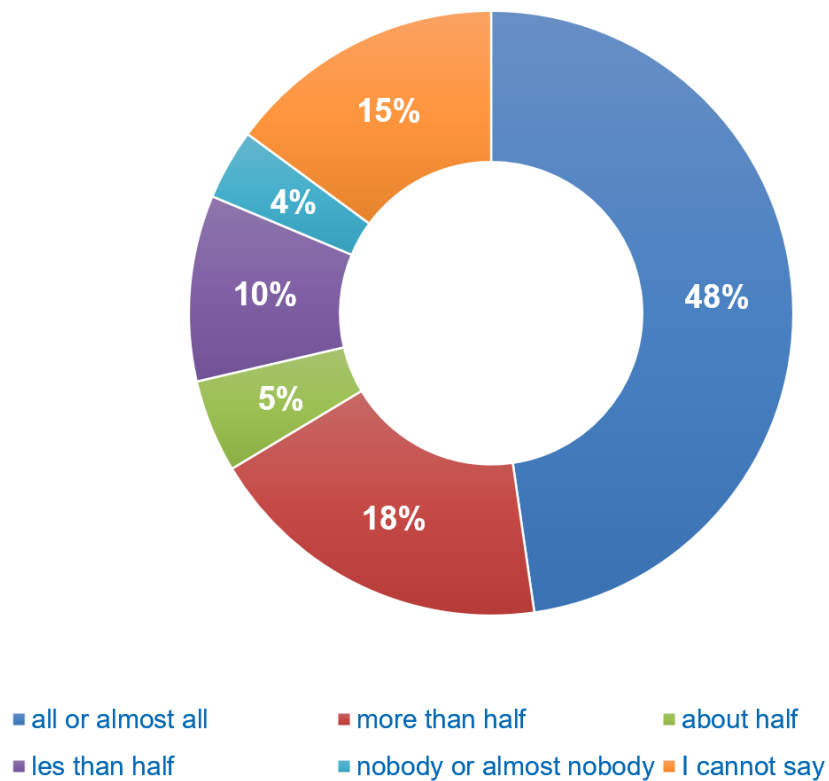
Extrapolating the information provided by the universities to Germany-wide figures, this results in a figure of around 80,000 students for all HRK member universities who left Germany due to the COVID-19 pandemic (approx. 40,000 at large universities, 11,000 at small universities, 22,000 at large universities of applied sciences, 3,000 at small universities of applied sciences, 3,000 at colleges of art and music).

In addition to the accommodations you already mentioned, is there any additional specific support your institution is providing to international students on your campus?



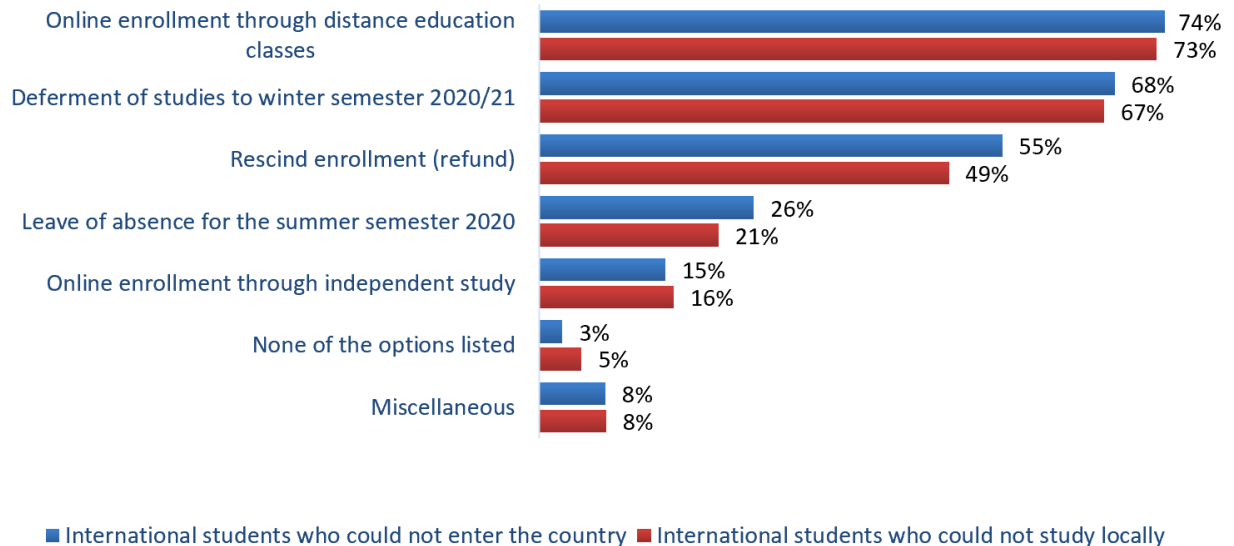
In addition to the general support services for students, many universities have also introduced special support services for international students. Over 70% of universities offer an increased range of information for international students on health, safety and well-being. More than half of the universities offer virtual information events especially for international students (57%) and also advise international students on the subject of student status or student visa if necessary (56%). Four out of ten universities were able to provide emergency funding specifically for international students (42%). In a separate question, students were asked about contingency plans for dealing with international students who are unable to return after the end of the semester, e.g. due to long-term travel restrictions. However, such plans are very rare (9%). This ranges from 19% for large universities to 3% for small universities of applied sciences.

What do you estimate: How many international students who actually wanted to study at your institution will use this virtual study offer?



According to the assessment of the interviewees, many international students take up the virtual courses that their institutions offer. Nearly half (48%) of these universities state that all or nearly all international students will use the virtual course offerings, while another fifth estimates that at least more than half of the international students will do so. The fact that none or at least almost none of the international students will use the virtual course offerings is only assumed by the small universities of applied sciences and the colleges of art and music. Presumably, it is precisely the practical parts of teaching that can be less well taught virtually.

Did your institution offer one or more of the following study options to international students who could not enter the country or could not take part in classroom courses in the current 2020 summer semester?



With regard to the summer 2020 semester, the universities offer various options for international students. About three quarters of the universities offer distance learning with online courses, about two thirds offer the deferral of studies until the coming winter semester. In addition, international students were able to withdraw their enrolment at about half of the universities; only small universities offered this option much less frequently. Leave of absence for the 2020 summer semester is possible at around a quarter of the universities, but much less frequently for students at large universities of applied sciences.

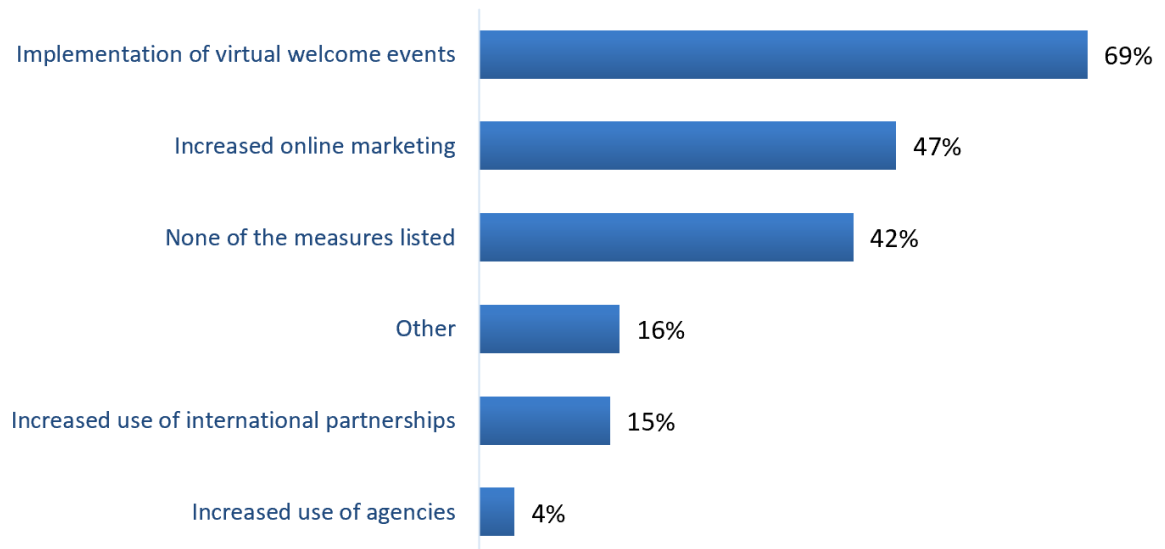
6. Impact and response regarding international university marketing

How has your institution's international student outreach and recruitment been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak?



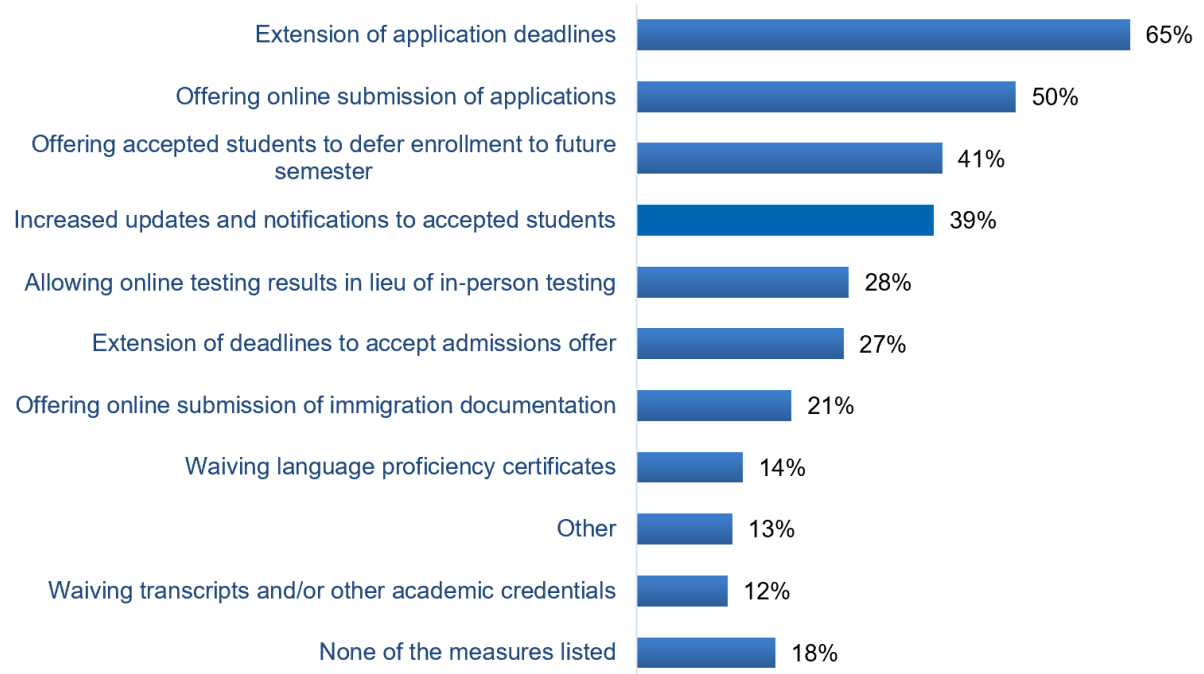
The effects of the pandemic also affect international university marketing. At four out of five universities, all welcome events were cancelled. Business trips for marketing purposes were also cancelled at two thirds of the universities. Nevertheless, there was no fundamental cancellation of all marketing events. In particular, there were hardly any cancellations at art and music colleges. In the other clusters, roughly every second university was affected. Much less frequently, failures or cancellations by local partners on site are the reason for the cancellation of marketing activities.

What measures has your institution put in place to support virtual outreach and recruitment to international students?



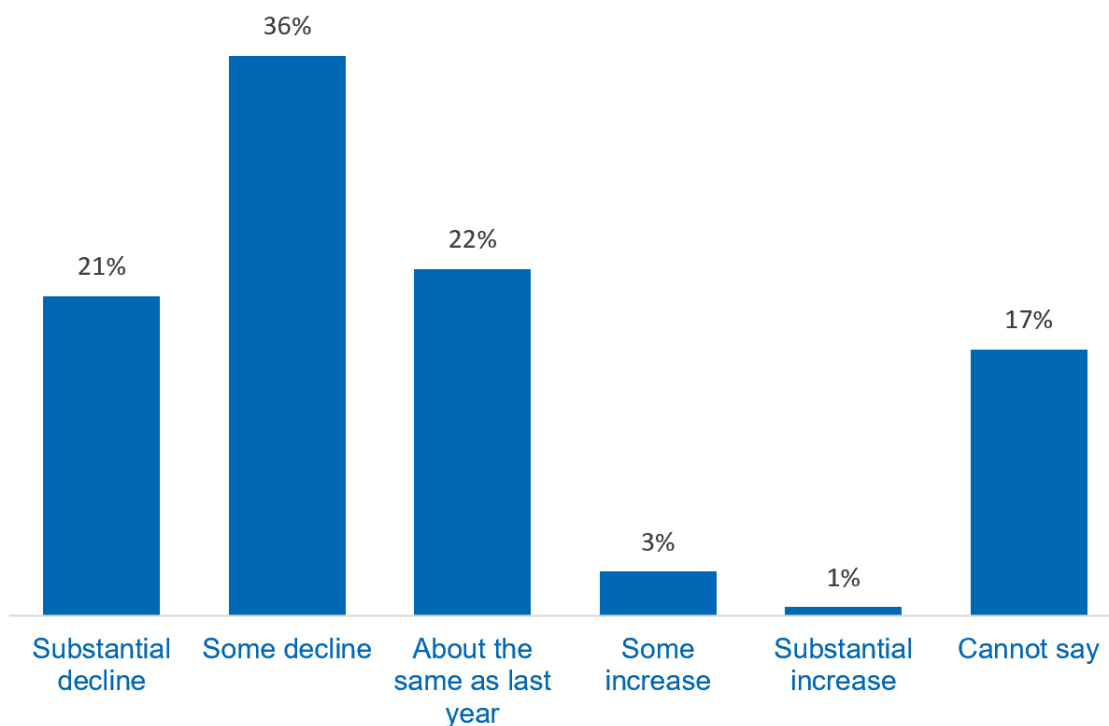
The universities have taken various measures to deal with the situation. Seven out of ten universities have held virtual welcome events, and about half are focusing on increased online marketing. According to open statements, some of them also made greater use of social media. Overall, universities of applied sciences rely slightly more frequently on virtual welcome events, whereas art and music colleges do so much less frequently.

What new measures has your institution put in place to adapt application and selection processes for international students amid the COVID-19 pandemic?



The vast majority of universities have also responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying the application and selection procedures for international students (82%). Application deadlines have been extended at about two thirds of the universities, and at every second university it is now possible to submit application documents online. Four out of ten universities have postponed the start of their studies and supported international students by providing more information.

What do you anticipate the effect of COVID-19 will be on international student application numbers for the 2020/21 winter semester (in comparison with the 2019/20 winter semester)?

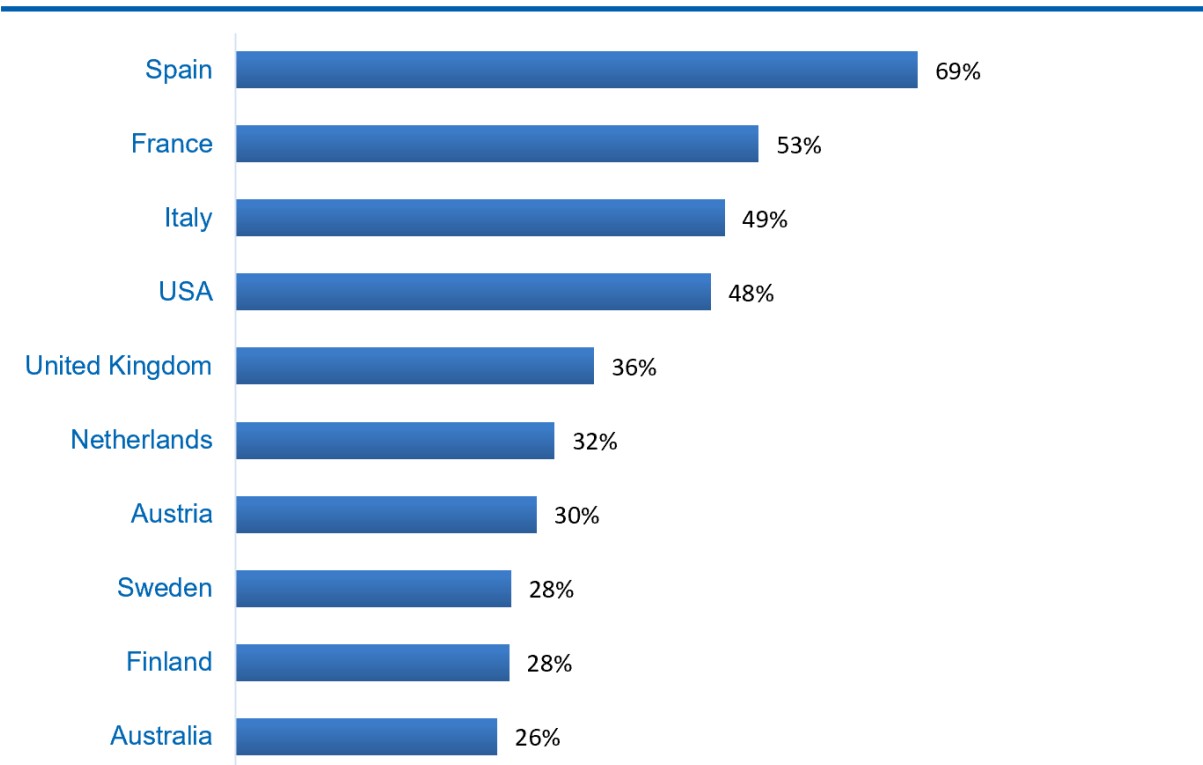


As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than half of the universities expect a decreasing number of international students in the next winter semester. However, only about one fifth of the universities surveyed expect the number to drop substantially, while more than a third expect it to fall rather slightly. However, this assessment is more pessimistic at large universities of applied sciences and small universities. 30% of those surveyed at large universities of applied sciences indicate that the number will fall substantially. A very ambivalent picture emerges for the colleges of art and music. The number of colleges that assume a decline in numbers and those that assume unchanged values are roughly the same. A total of 17% of all universities do not yet dare to make a forecast regarding the number of students.

One potential consequence of the possible loss of international students in the coming semesters would be to focus international student marketing on certain countries. (For example, on countries where no major problems with entry or exit restrictions or the issuing of visas are to be expected.). However, according to the information provided by the interviewees, there are hardly any plans to do so. Only every twentieth university is currently planning such a step (5%). This figure is still highest among large universities of applied sciences (7%). However, there is also a large proportion of respondents who cannot yet give a clear answer to this question (50%).

7. Impact and response regarding the international mobility of students from Germany

Where were these students located?

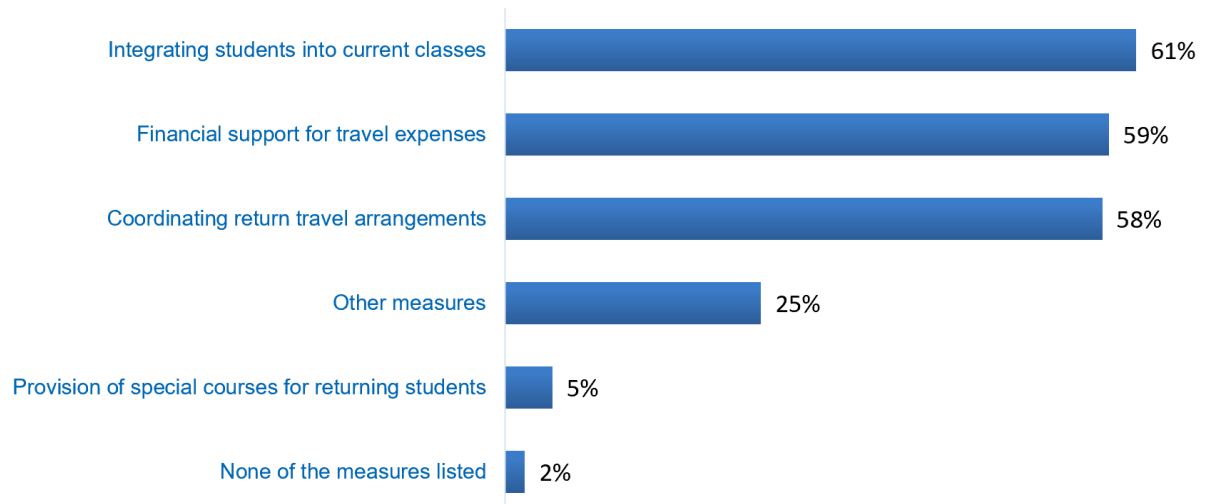


The consequences for the outward mobility of students from Germany were also addressed in the present survey. Almost all universities (97%) were confronted with the situation that students from their own institution were abroad for study purposes at the time of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The average number of students varies between 244 persons for large universities and 29 persons for small universities of applied sciences, as well as art and music colleges. The highest number for a university was 800 persons. A total of over 14,000 persons were reported by the universities participating in the survey alone. Extrapolated to all HRK member universities, the figure thus amounts to over 20,000 students.

92% of the universities stated that they had made efforts to support students abroad. At 97%, this figure is highest for small universities of applied sciences and lowest for colleges of art and music (75%). Efforts to bring back the students concerned from the host countries were focused on different countries. The percentage of universities mentioned in the survey provides information on the nations from which the persons had to return. In principle, the typical Erasmus host countries of Spain, France and Italy as well as the USA are in the foreground here.

Overall, the universities were able to support approximately four out of ten students abroad. The small universities and universities of applied sciences have particularly high shares. More than half of the students received support here. A total of approximately 5,800 persons were able to receive assistance from the universities participating in the survey. Extrapolated to all HRK member universities, this amounts to approximately 8,500 students.

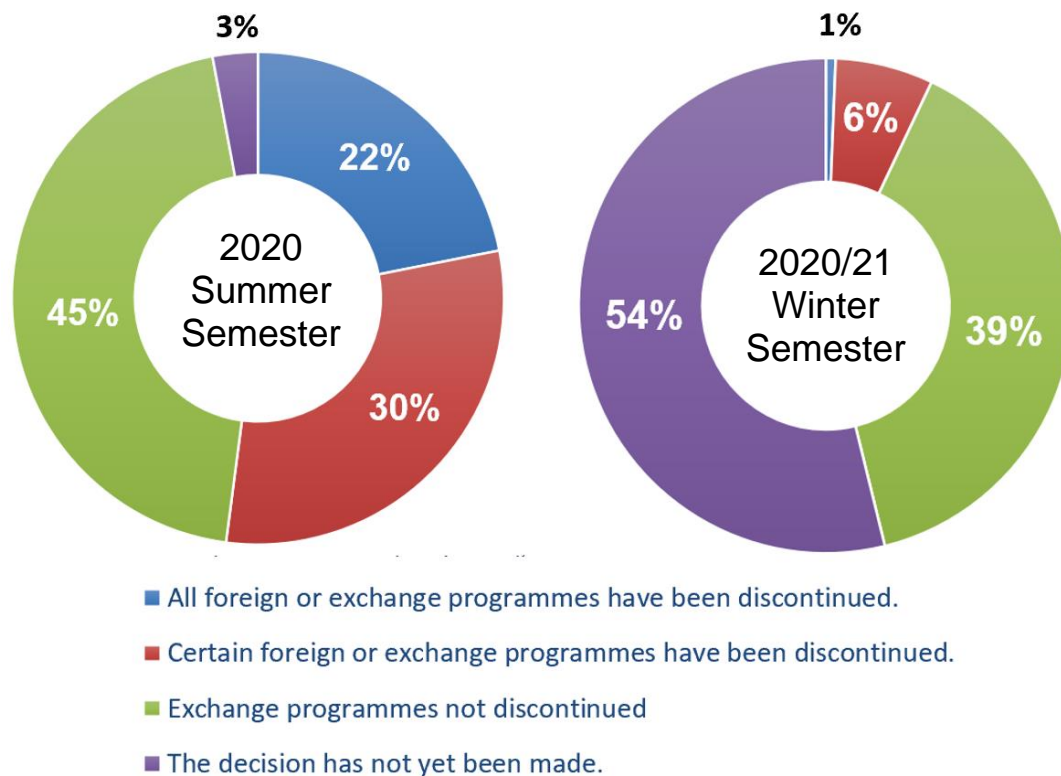
With which measures did you support the students in their return to Germany?



For most universities, student support consisted of three types of measures: Financial support for the costs of returning to Germany, assistance with the organizational planning of the return journey, and helping to reintegrate these students into current classes in Germany. This concerns, for example, recognition practice or an adapted curriculum. Art and music colleges report somewhat more frequently that they have supported their students on their return journey than the institutions in the other university clusters.

Students who were still abroad at the time of the survey were also supported by the majority of the universities (62%).

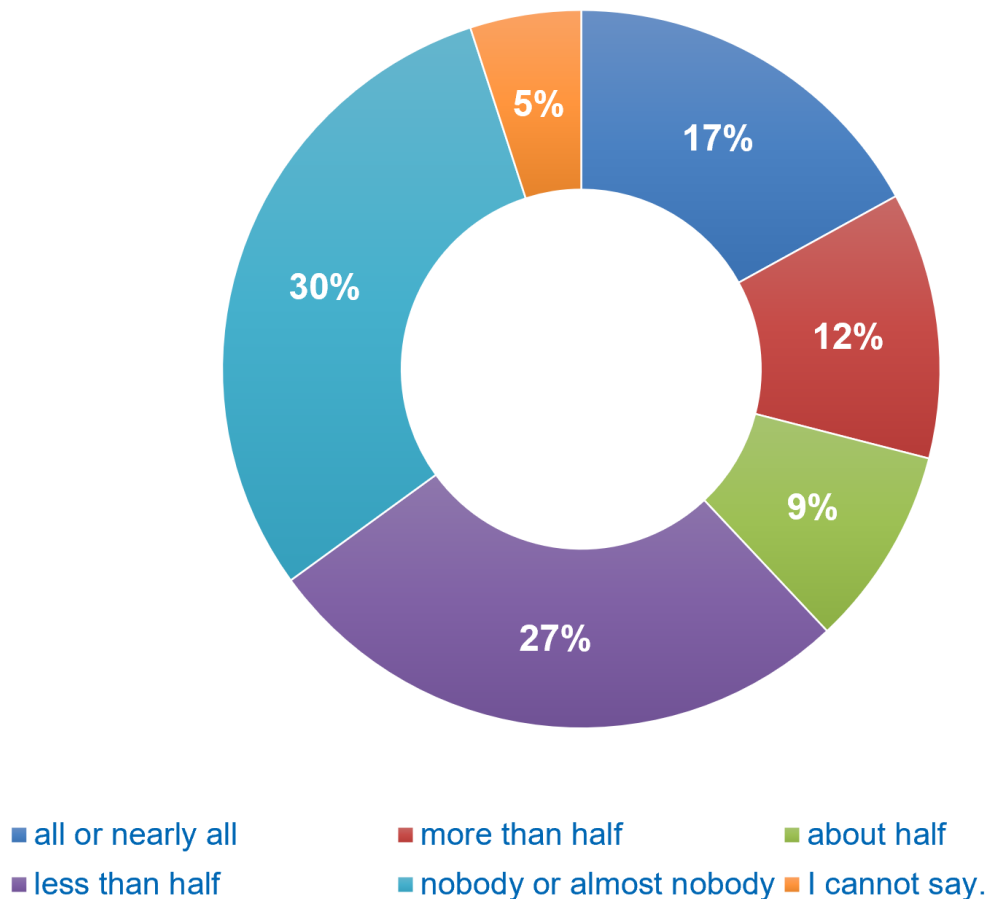
Has your institution cancelled study abroad or exchange programmes?



The current situation also has consequences for study abroad and exchange programmes. Nearly a third (30%) of the universities have discontinued certain study abroad and exchange programmes, and about a fifth (22%) have discontinued all programmes. However, a similarly high proportion of universities (45%) have not discontinued any programmes. A comparison of the institutional clusters shows that universities in particular have frequently discontinued all study abroad and exchange programmes (large universities 36%, small universities 33%), whereas the large universities of applied sciences have most frequently discontinued no programmes at all (62%).

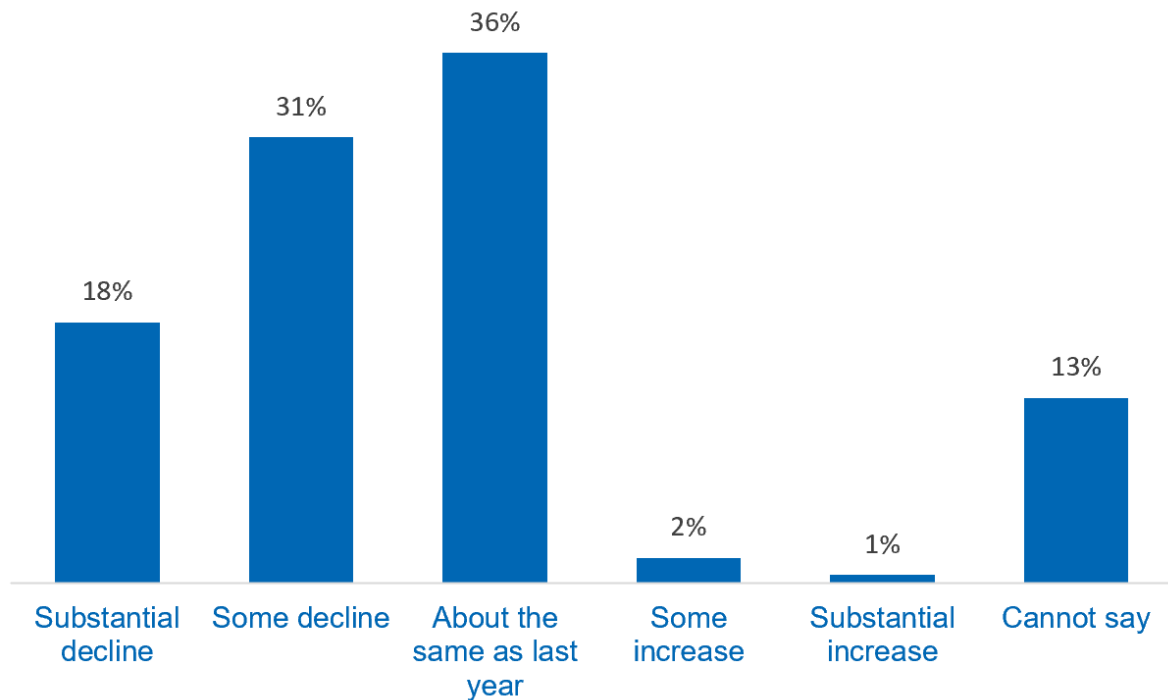
The universities were also asked to provide a forecast for the situation in the 2020/21 winter semester. Here, it is still unclear for more than half of the universities (54%) how the programmes will continue. At the same time, however, around four out of ten universities already assume that they will not discontinue any programmes in the winter semester either (39%). This proportion is particularly high for art and music colleges (46%) and small universities (45%).

Please estimate: How many students of your university who had planned a study-related stay abroad for the 2020 summer semester have cancelled it due to the COVID-19 pandemic?



Almost one third of the universities (30%) stated that hardly any students had cancelled their planned stays abroad during the 2020 summer semester. This is particularly true for universities of applied sciences as well as universities of art and music. A further quarter (27%) assumes that the proportion of students who cancelled their planned stays abroad is less than half. A cancellation rate of at least 50% is reported by nearly four out of ten universities (38%). This figure includes universities that assume that all or nearly all students with plans to study abroad have given up their plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic (17%). However, this proportion is significantly higher at small universities of applied sciences (27%) than the average for all universities.

What do you anticipate the effect of COVID-19 will be on students' interest in study abroad in the 2020/2021 winter semester (in comparison with the 2019/20 winter semester)?



The universities were also asked to provide a forecast of the interest of their students in a study-related stay abroad in the coming winter semester. These assessments are comparatively optimistic. More than a third of the universities (36%) assume that students' interest in study-related stays abroad will remain unchanged. Nearly a third (31%) assumes that interest will decline slightly. In contrast, just under one fifth of the universities expect a sharp decline in the international mobility of their own students. Only 13% of the universities surveyed do not feel able to make a corresponding forecast.

8. Evaluation of possible support services for universities

Please evaluate how useful the following DAAD support services around the topic of COVID-19 are or would be for your work.



Scale: 1 = not useful at all, 5 = very useful, displayed values 4 and 5.

The DAAD makes every effort to support students and universities in the current situation, among other things by providing relevant information. In order to be able to better assess which type of information is most helpful to the universities, the respondents were asked to rate it accordingly. All types of information listed were predominantly described by the universities as helpful or very helpful. Looking only at the ratings "somewhat useful" and "very useful", it can be seen that especially up-to-date, university-related information on the DAAD website (83%), information on the health and safety situation in certain countries and regions (80%) and individual written advice by e-mail (78%) received the highest approval rates. In contrast, virtual continuing education courses are comparatively rarely rated as "very helpful".

What specific topics would be of particular interest to you in these support services?



When designing the already existing DAAD support services, various wishes for more specific content were expressed or existing offers were evaluated. For example, interviewees would like to have more access to the DAAD's expertise through webinars in which "best practice examples" are presented (5 mentions). Closely related to this is the wish for a "clear statement on the earliest possible return to physical mobility" (5 mentions), i.e. an assessment of when virtual mobility can again be replaced by normal international mobility. At the same time, however, there are also increasing calls for concepts for virtual mobility (6 mentions). This applies in particular to the structure and financing of virtual mobility, but also to the way in which it can be used in a generally sensible manner.

The DAAD's COVID-19 press review was generally praised as a valuable tool (3 mentions) for obtaining an "overview of the effects of the pandemic on universities". A concise summary such as the press review was judged particularly valuable because one would currently receive a flood of information that was hardly manageable.

The most frequently mentioned wish of the interviewees is to receive up-to-date information about other countries (13 mentions). On the one hand, this concerns the situation and current actions of stakeholders in other nations, but also their concrete dealings with foreign students. On the other hand, they also want to know what interest in international mobility they can expect from other countries and what bilateral opportunities exist or will exist in this area. Furthermore, they want to be kept informed about scholarship and support programmes (12 mentions), also with regard to their implementation (6 mentions).

Are there any other offers of support that you would like the DAAD to provide in order to better deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic?

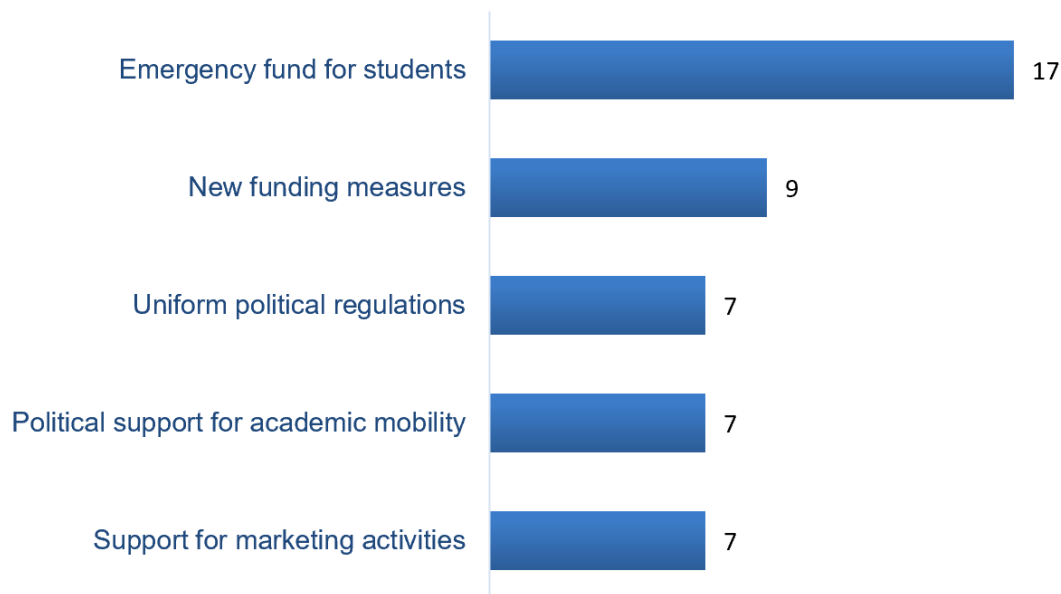


When asked about further possible support services by the DAAD, there was a wish to have an outlook on the potentially modified structures of Erasmus and other support programmes for the future (23 mentions). Currently, many international offices find it difficult to advise students and plan their own work, as there is no concrete information on future developments in this field.

The DAAD should provide not only a transparent presentation for the coming semesters, but also, if possible, a "more flexible and simplified implementation and accounting of DAAD programmes". For very many of the interviewees, this includes a flexibilisation of financing (e.g. "would have to make sure that the funds for organising a mobility are not linked to the mobility figures") or deadlines (6 mentions), as well as an increase of funding in existing programmes (8 mentions). The STIBET programme was frequently mentioned as an example. The possibility of reallocating funding was also postulated (11 mentions), i.e. a COVID-19-related change in the originally intended use of funding. Interviewees also suggested that the deferral of funding for students who can now go abroad only one year later should be considered. In addition, participants noted that an extension of one year for DAAD-funded projects at universities would be helpful (12 responses). The initialisation of new projects was also brought into play (5 mentions).

Very often, the respondents confirmed their desire for information about the possibilities in the current situation of obtaining reimbursement of costs for students or ongoing projects. There is a great deal of uncertainty here as to what legal framework one is operating within or what options one has for action. In some cases, it is also suggested that there should be a coordinated approach by the universities or certain guidelines for the universities (e.g. from the HRK or the DAAD) so that each university does not have to find its own solutions.

What other support offers or resources (also from organisations other than the DAAD) would be necessary in your view in order for a university to better deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic?

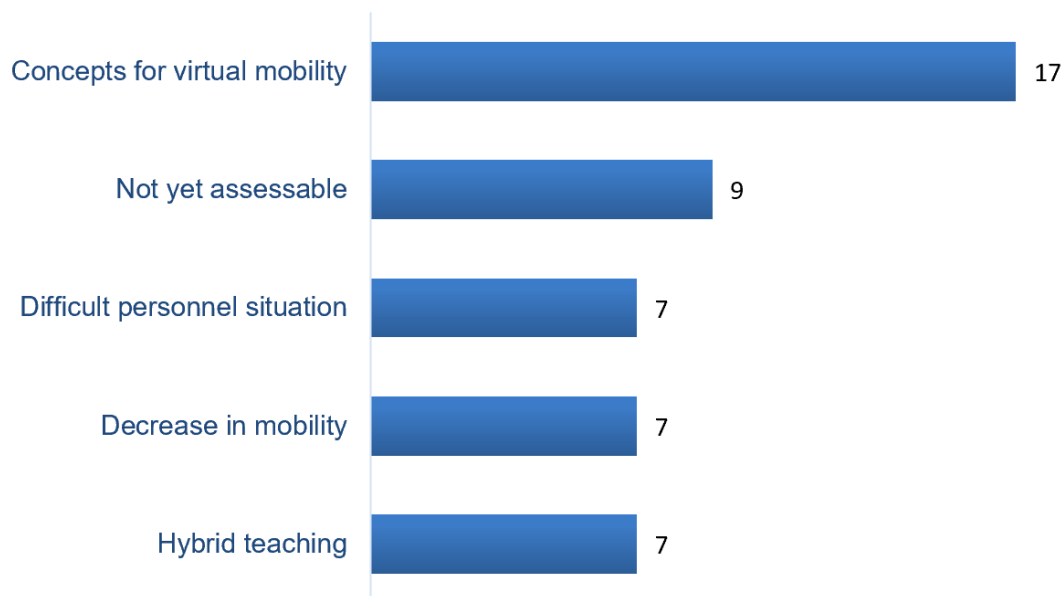


A central wish of the DAAD's support services beyond the DAAD is the establishment and use of an emergency fund (17 mentions), which is intended to help (international) students in financial need. (The bridging assistance for students provided by the Federal Government, which provides for a monthly, non-repayable grant of up to 500 euros per person for June to August, was not decided upon until mid-June and thus not until approximately one month after the survey was conducted.) There is only limited satisfaction with the loan systems that already exists in some cases (e.g. COVID-19-adapted Bafög, or bridging assistance through KfW loans). Other emergency aid is known to only a part of the interviewees. New funding schemes are demanded as in the previous question (9 mentions).

There is also occasional criticism. For example, the "solution of the federal emergency fund on a loan basis is not appropriate. The same applies to why international students are only allowed to apply from July onwards. The voice of the DAAD was too quiet here (at least in the big media)". In this respect, interviewees would also like to see a "reality check of political goals" and information about the "handling of sceptics". Politically, the DAAD or other institutions should also make an effort to emphasise once again that international mobility is particularly important in the current situation (7 mentions). Here, the Ministry of Education is also addressed that it should make "decisions on the further handling of internationals and guest students".

It would be helpful for the future of international mobility if the DAAD or other institutions offered "help with marketing", e.g. via webinars (7 mentions). Software which would simplify current processes in the international offices is also seen as useful (e.g. accounting/dedication of grants).

In your opinion, are there medium to long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that you will consider in your future planning?



In general, the respondents are of the opinion that virtual mobility will become significantly more important in the future (17 mentions). This also explains the need for more concepts in this area, as expressed in the previous questions.

A university-specific difficulty is often seen in the personnel situation (7). Many parameters have changed as a result of the pandemic, such as the number of students entering and leaving the university, but also the processing of the otherwise common automated processes. Here, many respondents complained about an insufficient number of staff or even feared possible savings at the staff level by the university management or politics. Occasionally, the DAAD was also called upon to protect the staff on site or to cover possible expenses.

Many respondents stated that they had not yet had time to reflect on the future and that planning was currently extremely difficult (7).

A further challenge for the future is seen in an increasing number of mobility formats, which make automation more difficult and therefore require more resources. Specifics of the programmes, regional characteristics and the general growth of virtual mobility pose increasing challenges for the respondents. Nevertheless, it is also predicted that there will be a steady increase in online applications, digital communication and digital marketing. As in the quantitative part of the survey, the majority of those surveyed expect an initial decline in physical mobility (7) in the coming semesters and also a general decrease in the number of compulsory attendance events, coupled with an increase in "hybrid teaching" (7), i.e. a mixture of virtual and presence teaching.

9. Comparison with IIE survey among US universities

The DAAD survey questionnaire was based on a questionnaire from the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the USA. The findings of the IIE for US universities can therefore be compared with those of the DAAD for German universities.

General effects on universities are largely comparable to those in Germany.

- In the US, too, on-campus events were cancelled at almost all universities (96% vs. 97% in Germany), and most of the administrative facilities and on-campus advisory services were also shut down (91% vs. 89% in Germany).
- Very frequently, university staff in the US and Germany cancelled their stays abroad (US: 88%; Germany: 90%), and somewhat less frequently business trips or research stays within their own country (US: 77%; Germany: 79%).
- The clearest difference between the US and Germany can be seen in the closure of student residences: This is reported by 54% of US universities, but only 2% of German universities.

In the US, more universities than in Germany are switching to pure online teaching and offer specific support services for students.

- A clear difference between the two countries can be seen in the conversion of teaching: A conversion to pure online teaching took place at a good three-quarters of all US universities (76%) and thus to a much greater extent than in Germany (45%).
- An emergency plan was drawn up by US universities with a similar frequency (88%) as by German universities (82%). An emergency fund for students was set up by 70% of US universities, but only 38% of German universities.
- There are also greater differences in the adaptation of grading guidelines, which is reported by nearly three quarters (74%) of US universities, but only 7% of German universities.
- An additional offer of psychological counselling services is also reported by significantly more US universities (76%) than German universities (31%).

Effects on international students: Germany much more affected due to the later start of the summer semester, but US more pessimistic about the winter semester.

- In Germany twice as many of the universities report problems with the entry of the expected international students (Germany: 62%, US: 31%). This can probably be explained primarily by the later start of the 2020 summer semester in Germany.
- Affected students in the US come primarily from Asia. In Germany, non-Asian countries of origin such as Italy, Turkey, Spain, Russia, Iran and the USA are also strongly affected in addition to China, India and South Korea.
- US universities offered a deferral of studies much less frequently (37% compared to 68% in Germany). This, too, can probably be explained by the fact that there were fewer entry problems in the US than in Germany due to the earlier start of the semester.

- More than half of the universities in Germany (55%) offered to repay tuition or semester fees, but only a very small minority of US universities (4%).
- Support in clarifying visa questions was offered more frequently in the US (84%) than in Germany (56%). This can probably also be explained by the fact that many (European) countries of origin of international students do not require visa in Germany.
- In the USA, a significantly higher proportion (88%) of universities expect a decline in the number of international students for the winter semester 2020/21 (D: 57%).

US universities cancel study abroad programs much more frequently than German universities and also expect a decrease in study abroad in the winter semester more frequently.

- Around 55% of the internationally mobile students in the US have chosen a country in Europe as their place of study, 81% of whom have returned to the US after the outbreak of the corona epidemic.
- Exchange programs were completely suspended in the 2020 summer semester much more frequently in the US (83%) than in Germany (22%).
- 57% of US universities contributed to the return travel costs of their students, i.e. a similarly high proportion as in Germany (59%).
- German universities report slightly more frequently that they have taken steps to support the organization of return travel (D: 58%; USA: 53%). A similar picture emerges with regard to the reintegration of students into current classes at their home institution: This was supported by 46% of US universities, compared to 61% in Germany.
- The prognosis for the international mobility of their own students is also more pessimistic in the US than in Germany: US universities are significantly more likely (85%) to expect a decline in interest in study-related stays abroad than German universities (49%).

International Student Marketing

- Business trips for marketing purposes were cancelled in the US with a similar frequency (63%) as in Germany (66%). 57% of US universities report that planned marketing events did not take place, a similar number to Germany (51%).
- 40% of US universities and a similar number of German universities (41%) offered a deferral of studies by one semester.
- In the US, the option of replacing attendance tests with online tests was offered more frequently (44%) than in Germany (28%).
- In contrast, an adjustment of application deadlines (US: 36%; D: 65%) and online applications (US: 27%; D: 50%) were offered less frequently in the USA than in Germany.

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